

than six months each in four separate years shall have been taken before a diploma, which is a requisite credential for admission to the examination before the board, may be issued.

The term of study of all but one of the graduates of the Hahnemann Medical College, ending in June of the present year, was a few weeks short of the legally required time. When this matter was presented by the credentials committee of the Board of Examiners to the dean of that school, he at once saw the desirability of maintaining the integrity of the law. All of the students of that institution to whom diplomas have been granted for this last term will be required to re-enter the school in October and study till December, when they will be granted new diplomas, and will be eligible to appear before the Board of Examiners at the succeeding examination. There was no plea for leniency; no request that the law be ignored "just this one time"; no desire to evade the issue. The decision was immediate and clean-cut; the law should be lived up to. We are certainly to be congratulated upon this wise decision, for it leaves no ground for complaint by any school at any time that in any single instance the medical practice act was ignored or set aside. The other medical schools in which individual instances of a somewhat too short term of study have occurred can but follow the example which they have been set without grumbling, and live up to the wise letter of the wise law.

Dr. Oliver T. Osborne, Chairman of the Section of Materia Medica, etc., of the A. M. A., made the subject of his address at the Atlantic City meeting a discussion of nostrums and unlicensed or illegal practitioners.

It was an excellent address, and was published in the *Journal A. M. A.*, July 2, 1904. That of it which had to do with nostrums was entirely devoted to the, popularly called, "patent medicines," and ignored the most dangerous class—the nostrums vended through the physicians of the country—the secret-formula "proprietary" preparations. Elsewhere in the JOURNAL will be found an extract from *Printers' Ink*, a publication devoted to advertisers and their interests. Read it carefully and then stop and think whether you are being "worked" in this way. Think whether you are doing all of your duty, or whether you are lazily going through life prescribing "ready-to-take-medicine" in the original package. The same number of the *Journal A. M. A.* which reprinted a portion of the article from *Printers' Ink*, contained, among other advertisements, some of them irreproachable, the following choice collection; it may be that the composition of some of the stuff here presented for the consideration and

use of reputable physicians, is known; if so, we should like to know it: Listerine, Colden's Liquid Beef Tonic, Iodomuth (seems to be good for most everything), Urasol, Thigenol, Vasogen, Lactagol, Gonosan, Mey's Poultrice, Diouviburnia, Neurosine, Ergoapiol, Bovinine (advertised on fences, billboards, lay press, etc., etc.), Sal Hepatica, Unguentine (at first glance this "ad." looks like the announcement of a fire engine manufacturer), Tongaline, Uriseptine (the Gardner-Barada Co.'s fake-formula stuff), Chiolin, Cactina, Seng and, choicest morsel of all, Bartlett's Pile Suppositories," sent to anyone anywhere for \$1.00 per box! We miss our old friends, "Fig Syrup" and "Peruna."

The peculiar but not unique case of Jane Toppan, the Boston nurse who, in 1902, was arrested for the murder of a number of patients under her charge, is carefully analyzed in a recent number of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*. A very decidedly praiseworthy detail in the proceedings against this individual was the agreement of the prosecution and the defense to the appointment of a commission of three experts, who examined and passed upon the mental condition of the prisoner with reference to her responsibility. "A more practical and satisfactory method, and one more in keeping with the principles of scientific inquiry, could not have been chosen, and its adoption by the attorney-general in such an important case would seem to be a long step toward abolishing, in criminal cases at least, the opposite customary practice which has done so much to discredit expert opinion." The JOURNAL most emphatically endorses the words of Dr. Stedman, who prepared the report in question, and commends them to the careful consideration of all the members of our Society. Can we not use our influence to secure similar action in criminal cases, and thus remove somewhat of the reproach which now attaches to "expert testimony"?

The Lane Lectures, at Cooper College, were delivered this year by Dr. Wm. H. Welch of Johns Hopkins, on the general subject of infection. It would be quite impossible at this time or in the space at present command to attempt to review the course of lectures or in the slightest degree outline their scope and value. Unfortunately, the JOURNAL did not receive notice of the course until too late to publish a statement anent them in the August issue. We hope to be able to publish some of the lectures, or an abstract of the course, in subsequent issues, but at the time of writing nothing definite has been determined and we cannot promise it. Certainly the publication of these lectures would be of very great value to the medical men of California, and to the readers of the JOURNAL generally, and therefore we have hopes.